

ABSTRACT

An Ethernet link connects a wireless switch and an interworking function (IWF). Both signaling information and bearer data are exchanged over the Ethernet link. The Ethernet-based interface enables wireless switch companies to keep their 2G customer base without having to deploy additional third party equipment. In order to make the Ethernet link function, an IWF chassis is modified to connect an Access Router card to a PRI card. The Access Router card packetizes and de-packetizes data to and from the PSTN. Additionally, a protocol is implemented between an application card and the Access Router card so that the application card can communicate signaling information to the Access Router card.